



AFT Connecticut
AFT, AFL-CIO

Healthcare
Higher Education
Public Employees
PSRP
Teachers

Testimony
Sharon M. Palmer
Appropriations Committee
April 5, 2011

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Thank you Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Committee for providing this hearing opportunity. I am Sharon Palmer, President, AFT Connecticut, a diverse union of 28,000 members.

Sharon Palmer
PRESIDENT

Melodie Peters
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Leo Canty
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas Bruenn
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Our union would like you to know our position regarding a number of bills before you today.

We oppose SB229, HB5657, HB5803 and SB1123. All of the issues in these bills are subject to collective bargaining with the Governor. We believe they should remain in this realm. As you know the discussions are currently ongoing with the Governor and we hope they will be productive.

We oppose SB452 regarding state mandates. Any change can be called a mandate. This bill defends the status quo without any review of existing "mandates" however they may be defined. We believe changes should be considered on their merits.

We oppose HB5117. This is an interesting idea which probably deserves more discussion. However, we do not believe it is feasible in isolation from the rest of the budget. The interconnectedness of the budget really demands that it be considered as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our standpoint on these bills.

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